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enjoyment of good pickings. A single generous quotation will suffice; and that, taken, not from the author's narrative, but from an address (quoted on pp. 90-91) by the Democratic convention in 1867 "to the colored people of South Carolina":

"Your present power must surely and soon pass from you. Nothing that it builds will stand and nothing will remain of it but the prejudices it may create. It is, therefore, a dangerous tool that you are handling. Your leaders, both white and black, are using your votes for nothing but their individual gain. . . . Offices and salaries for themselves are the height of their ambition, and so that they make hay while the sun shines they care not who is caught in the storm that follows. . . . What few enterprises are carried on are only the work of southern men who have faith that the present state of affairs is but temporary.

"We therefore urge and warn you, by all the ties of our former relations still strong and binding in thousands of cases, by a common Christianity and by the mutual welfare of our two races, whom Providence has thrown together, to beware of the course on which your leaders are urging you in a blind folly which will surely ruin both you and them.

"We do not pretend to be better friends to your race than we are to ourselves, and we only speak when we are not invited because your welfare concerns ours. If you destroy yourselves you injure us, and though but little as compared with the harm you will do yourselves, we would, if we could, avert the whole danger.

"We are not in any condition to make you any promises or to propose to you any compromises. We can do nothing but await the course of events—but this we do without the slightest apprehension or misgiving for ourselves. We shall not give up our country, and time will soon restore our control of it. But we earnestly caution you and beg you in the meanwhile to beware of the use you make of your temporary power. Remember that your race has nothing to gain and everything to lose if you invoke that prejudice of race which since the world was made has ever driven the weaker tribe to the wall. Forsake, then, the wicked and stupid men who would involve you in this folly and make to yourselves friends and not enemies of the white citizens of South Carolina."

Such documents as this are fairly characteristic of the book. This being true, its value as a contribution and a work of reference is established.

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**Rhodes, James Ford.** *History of the United States from the Compromise of 1850 to the Final Restoration of Home Rule at the South in 1877.* Vol. VI, pp. xx, 440; Vol. VII, pp. xiii, 430. Price, \$2.50 each. New York; The Macmillan Company, 1906.

These are the final volumes of a truly monumental work begun some twenty years ago. They cover the period from 1866 to the inauguration of Presi-

dent Hayes in March, 1877, and the withdrawal of federal troops from the south. The sixth volume opens with a discussion of the fourteenth amendment and concludes with the presidential election of 1868. It deals mainly with the reconstruction of the southern states, the struggle between Congress and the Executive and the foreign relations of the United States during Johnson's term. The seventh and last volume begins with the *Credit Mobilier* scandal and ends with the restoration of home rule at the south. It is concerned principally with the aftermath of reconstruction: "Carpet-bag" rule in the south, Ku-Klux disorders, the breakdown of the reconstruction policy and the scandals in Congress and in the civil service of the United States.

It was originally Mr. Rhodes's intention to bring his narrative down to the inauguration of President Cleveland, but further reflection, he tells us, convinced him that a more natural close was the withdrawal of the federal troops from the southern states in 1877 and the final restoration of home rule in those states. He gives, as an additional reason for abandoning his original plan, his lack of "basic knowledge" for dealing with the social questions which appear after 1877. Nineteen years of almost exclusive devotion to the study of a single period of American history, he says, has had a tendency to narrow his field of vision, and before proceeding further he feels the need of a systematic study of the history of Europe during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, "in order to bring to bear the light which the experience of those countries may throw upon our own progress since 1877." What Mr. Rhodes says of the year 1877 as the end of an epoch will be admitted, yet his change of plan will cause keen regret among the many who have eagerly watched for the appearance of his successive volumes during the last fifteen years. The publication of each has been a sort of "event" in the history of historical writing in America, and it is to be hoped that after he has acquired the additional information of which he feels need he will resume his narrative and bring it down, not only to 1885, but even to the present time. It may be stated, without fear of successful impeachment, that no other period of American history has been so well and interestingly written as the one covered by Mr. Rhodes. Although seven volumes have been devoted to the history of about thirty years, there is no useless detail to weary the reader, but a concise, well-balanced story, that can be followed with unflagging interest by the general student as well as the specialist. From first to last Mr. Rhodes's style has been marked by a clearness and a charm which has made his volumes of fascinating interest. In method of treatment he has shown a fairness, a sympathy and a judicial calmness rarely found in a historian who attempts to tell the story of events, many of which are within the reach of his own memory, and most of which are marked by passion and bitterness. Few, if any, writers of American history have so thoroughly exploited the sources from which they drew their facts or devoted such painstaking efforts to reach accurate and just conclusions. His power of characterization, as we see it exemplified in his portraits of John Brown, Lincoln, Lee, Grant, Davis and many others, is one of his most conspicuous literary merits. Taking the work as

a whole, our judgment must be that it is not likely to be superseded in the future.

Of the two volumes under review there is little to be said by way of criticism. Dealing with the most difficult of all epochs of American history—a period in which almost every act has been the subject of bitter controversy—Mr. Rhodes has handled his theme with a good sense of proportion, judgment and fairness which it would be difficult to improve upon. His judgments upon the measures and the men of the time are usually frank and candid; indeed, are sometimes severe, but they are always supported by such an array of evidence as to compel conviction in the mind of the reader. The reconstruction policy he characterizes as “shortsighted, even from the partisan point of view,” and “repressive, uncivilized and unsuccessful” (VII:171). Its worst feature, he correctly says, was not the military government, but the rule of the negro, which was much worse than honest government by American soldiers would have been (VI:29). The north erred, he says, in assuming that because the south did not admit that she had been wrong and display at once a strong national feeling, she did not accept the accomplished facts. No large policy in our country has ever been so conspicuous a failure, is Mr. Rhodes’s judgment, as that of forcing negro suffrage upon the south (VII:168). This policy brought no real good to the negroes; few of them ever developed any political capacity, and none of them in comparison with their white associates attained the least distinction. In a word, the author concludes, the negro, politically, has been a failure. Against all the warnings of science and political experience he was started at the top, and, as is the fate of most of such unfortunates, he fell to the bottom (VII:170). Of those concerned in the *Credit Mobilier* affair, Colfax and Garfield swore falsely or had defective memories (VII:17), and the evidence against other members of Congress was very damaging. Grant was personally honest, but his shielding of Babcock and Belknap was reprehensible. During his administration the high water mark of corruption in national affairs was reached (VII:191). Some of Blaine’s transactions were disreputable, and in his defense of April 24, 1876, he told “six distinct falsehoods” (VII:204). The scandal and corruption which permeated almost every department of the national government was one of the legacies of reconstruction, but, as Mr. Rhodes observes, the American people remained sound at the core.

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**Taylor, F. M.** *Some Chapters on Money.* Pp. 316. Ann Arbor, Mich.: George Wahr, 1906.

Professor Taylor’s work was intended for exclusive use in college classes. It was printed, in a very limited edition of 300 copies, for the use of the students in the University of Michigan, and it must be judged very largely from this point of view.

We already have a number of books upon this subject which can, with